



# ETPLAS

Harmonizing Education & Training in Laboratory Science  
the role of ETPLAS in the EU and beyond

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Animaux et alternatives: la voie à suivre  
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Education and Training Platform for Laboratory Animal Science

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## Legislation and harmonization

2010/63/EU Directive - Article 23

2. The staff shall be adequately educated and trained before they perform any of the following functions:

- carrying out procedures on animals;
- designing procedures and projects;
- taking care of animals;
- killing animals.

[How to ensure harmonization of E&T across Europe?](#)

EC set up Expert Working Group to develop common framework to facilitate meeting requirements for competence and free movement of personnel



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## Legislation and harmonization

2010/63/EU Directive - Article 23

Education & Training frameworks defines **modules** for laboratory animal science education & training:

- Core modules (common to all EU functions)
- Function-specific modules
- Additional tasks and skills
- Other additional modules



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## Legislation and harmonization

### LIST OF MODULES

1	National legislation	core
2	Ethics, animal welfare and the Three Rs (level 1)	
3.1	Basic and appropriate biology – species specific (theory)	
3.2	Basic and appropriate biology – species specific (practical)	
4	Animal care, health and management – species specific (theory)	core
5	Recognition of pain, suffering and distress - species specific	
6.1	Humane methods of killing (theory)	
6.2	Humane methods of killing (skills)	
6.3	Humane methods of killing - Alternative stand-alone Module for Function D	
7	Minimally invasive procedures without anaesthesia – species specific (theory)	
8	Minimally invasive procedures without anaesthesia – species specific (skills)	
9	Ethics, animal welfare and the Three Rs (level 2)	
10	Design of procedures and projects (level 1)	
11	Design of procedures and projects (level 2)	



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## Legislation and harmonization

### Additional tasks or skills

- Anaesthesia for minor procedures
- Advanced anaesthesia for surgical or prolonged procedures
- Principles of surgery
- Advanced animal husbandry, care and enrichment practices
- Designated Veterinarian
- Project Evaluator

### Other additional modules

- Introduction to the local environment (establishment) for persons taking specific roles under the Directive
- Information provision and retrieval



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## Legislation and harmonization

### Questions from professionals:

- What Education & Training do I need?
- Where can I get it?
- Is my training valid in other countries?
- Does this course have the minimum requirements?

### Questions from course providers:

- What are the minimum requirements for a LAS course?
- How to ensure I meet mutually recognised standards?

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## The Education & Training Platform for Laboratory Animal Science



A European platform at which **information** on education and training can be exchanged is proposed.




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## About ETLAS



- Established in 2014**
- To provide:**
  - Information and tools for the delivery and assessment of high quality laboratory animal science training in Europe
  - A forum for exchanging information on LAS education and training
- Pools together**
  - Member State Authorities
  - Course Providers
  - Course Accreditors
- To facilitate**
  - Mutual recognition of education & training in Laboratory Animal Science (LAS)
  - The free movement of personnel

The EU one-stop-shop for E&T in lab animal science, information sharing and communication; registered in Spain (Spring 2021)

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## About ETLAS



- The platform should gather key European stakeholders
- Should **not add bureaucracy or control** approval/accrediting processes
- ETPLAS goal is to **facilitate and inform** (European Commission, 2014) – e.g. by publishing list of available courses formally recognized by Competent Authorities, or Accrediting Bodies
- Establishing and **harmonizing standards for E&T in LAS** (e.g. defining learning outcomes, publishing DOPS forms)
- Not originally defined by the European Commission (but EC endorsed):
  - e-learning courses
  - ETPLAS exam platform
  - Resource library (for 3<sup>rd</sup> party content)

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## ETPLAS Pilot Project (2019-2021)

### Five Working Groups

EU GRANT N° 07.02774/2018/794340/SUB/ENV.B2



- Developing further **guidance for producing assessment criteria** for the Learning Outcomes;
- Developing a **database of assessment criteria** for Core and function A specific modules;
- Developing a **Questions Database** for theoretical Core and function A specific modules;
- Developing a **Library of Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS)** for assessment of commonly used practical techniques;
- Establishing a fit-for-purpose **ETPLAS IT-platform**.

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## Delivered: WG 1 and 2



Working Party Report

### Assessable learning outcomes for the EU Education and Training Framework core and Function A specific modules: Report of an ETLAS WORKING Group

Laboratory Animals Ltd

Article review guidelines: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022477220964889>

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## Delivered: WG 3 – questions database



Promoting Alternatives to Animal Testing

Documents > Working Party 3

Name	Modified	Modified By	Add column
Documents	March 1	Madeleine La Grèzes	
Examples of assessment	March 22, 2020	skibbinat@pharm...	
Final module 2	March 12	Madeleine La Grèzes	
Final module 3	March 12	Madeleine La Grèzes	
Final module 4	March 12	Madeleine La Grèzes	
Final module 5	March 12	Madeleine La Grèzes	
Final module 6	March 12	Madeleine La Grèzes	
Final module 7	March 12	Madeleine La Grèzes	

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## E-Modules developed under other EU grants available



- E-learning modules should not be seen as sufficient, *per se*
- Developed to be used in a blended-learning approach that combines e-learning with face-to-face teaching.
- Can be integrated in existing courses or followed on need-basis.
- Expected to be complemented with further development of the material, either face-to-face or otherwise.



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## Pilot project conclusions



- ETPLAS is becoming EU's one-stop-shop for E&T in laboratory animal science
- All Pilot project deliverables finished
  - Refined Learning outcomes EU-function A
  - Database of exam questions
  - Database of DOPS
  - Web-portal
  - Publication of e-modules
  - Searchable database of LAS courses
- The expertise developed under this Pilot Project Grant should be continued to tackle other EU-functions in a similar way! ETPLAS programme for 2021-2024.

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## ETPLAS 2021-2024

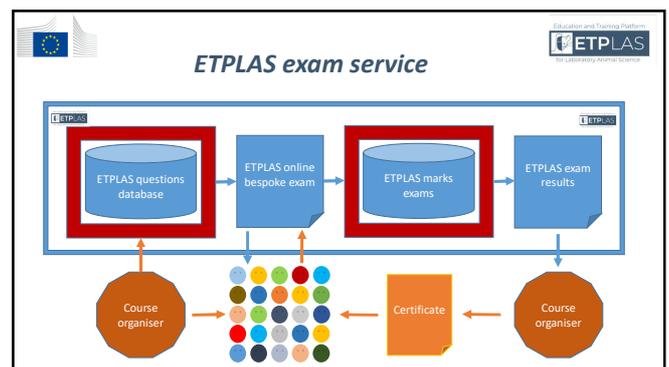
EU GRANT N.º 09.200200.A092004/2021/864077/SUB/ENV.B.2



- Extend programme to include EU-function B and C
- Extend database of questions for theoretical Core and function A, B and C specific modules
- Develop exam service to be offered through the ETPLAS IT-platform
- Development of a Union-wide continuing professional development (CPD) framework
- Development of a Union wide continuing professional development (CPD) framework for functions A and B
- Incorporation of educational tools in relation to the Three Rs and non-animal approaches for all levels

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## ETPLAS 2021-2023 LAS-Learning Project



- Uni. of Porto (Nuno Franco) + Uni. of Utrecht (Ivo Tiebosch)+ OneSource IT consulting
- 24 European Experts producing new 13 e-learning modules
  - EU-2 and EU-9 – Ethics, Animal Welfare and the 3Rs (lv 1 and 2)
  - EU-3.1 – Basic and appropriate biology (mouse, rat, zebrafish, farm animals)
  - EU-5 - Recognition of pain, suffering and distress (mouse, rat, zebrafish, farm animals)
  - EU-24 - Designated Veterinarian
  - EU-26 - Inspections
  - Develop LOs and new module: Competence Assessor**
- Reflection Group of 60 professionals and regulators to evaluate output

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## ETPLAS 2021-2023 Other activities



### Hosting of 3<sup>rd</sup> party e-learning modules

- SYRCLE** course on Systematic reviews of animal studies
  - April 2023
- Precinicaltrials.eu** course on preregistration of animal studies (funded by Laboratory Animals)
- Hosting of other content (searchable repository)
- Recognition of ETPLAS modules as CPD?
  - By most Spanish Competent Authorities
  - Other countries – to be explored



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## Conclusions and perspective



- **+100 people involved in ETPLAS activities**
  - Executive Committee
  - Stakeholders Board
  - Stakeholders group
  - Preparatory Action
  - Reflection group
- We have a searchable resource library (for images, videos, PDFs) for 3<sup>rd</sup>-party LAS and 3Rs content – **submissions are open and welcome!**
- **13+1 e-learning modules being developed**
- Course list built on voluntary submissions – register and advertise **your course on our website!**

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## Acknowledgements

- Anne-Dominique Degryse (ETPLAS Pilot Project leader)
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- ETPLAS Pilot project members
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Thank you!



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